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E.O. 12356: N/A

BODY:

TAGS: PINS, ELAB, PREL, HO

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM FUTH PROTESTS US ACTIVITY

1. ON JANUARY 13, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UNITARY FEDERATION OF HONDURAN WORKERS (FUTH), THE NATION'S LEFTIST LABOR ORGANIZATION, CAME TO THE EMBASSY ACCOMPANIED BY A NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS TO PRESENT A PETITION TO THE AMBASSADOR. THE THREE, WHOSE APPOINTMENT WAS WITH THE LABOR ATTACHE, NOT THE AMBASSADOR, PRESENTED THEIR LETTER TO LABATT, AND REPORTERS WERE KEPT OUTSIDE THE EMBASSY. THE LETTER, CRITICAL OF THE USG PRESENCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA, WAS MUCH MORE SHARPLY WORDED THAN THE BRIEF PRESENTATION MADE ORALLY BY THE FUTH OFFICIALS WHO SAID THEY FEARED CONTINUATION OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL COURSE IN THE REGION WOULD LEAD TO WAR. LABATT NOTED THAT THE USG AND THE GOH SHARE THE VIEW THAT THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS IN THE REGION ARE THE RESULT OF ACTIVITIES INITIATED BY THE SANDINISTA REGIME IN MANAGUA. EMBOFF CHOSE NOT TO ENGAGE IN A PROTRACTED DEBATE, HOWEVER, SINCE IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE FUTH REPS WERE NOT LISTENING.

2. TWO PRESS ACCOUNTS UNFLATTERING TO THE U.S. ON JANUARY 14 STATED INCORRECTLY THAT THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH THE DELEGATION WHICH DEMANDED AN END TO USG "INTERFERENCE IN HONDURAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS." A COPY OF THE LETTER WAS SENT TO PRESIDENT AZCONA, AND ON JANUARY 14 THE TEXT OF THE LETTER WAS READ OVER ONE OF THE LOCAL LEFTIST RADIO AMERICA. EMBASSY DOES NOT PLAN TO RESPOND TO THE LETTER BUT WILL CORRECT THE RECORD BY NOTIFYING THE MEDIA THAT THE AMBASSADOR NEVER MET WITH ANY REPRESENTATIVE FROM FUTH.

3. INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF THE LETTER FROM FUTH IS AS FOLLOWS:

DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

THE UNITARY FEDERATION OF HONDURAN WORKERS (FUTH) RESPECTFULLY BUT EMPHATICALLY STATES THAT THE POLITICAL CRISIS SUFFERED BY THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES IS DANGEROUSLY ADVANCING TOWARDS A FALSE SOLUTION: WAR IN THE REGION. ONCE THIS STAGE IS REACHED, HONDURAS WILL

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BE THE MOST AFFECTED VICTIM, PARTICULARLY THE HONDURAN PEOPLE.

LAST YEAR'S EVENTS IN THE BORDER ZONE ARE PROOF OF THIS AFFIRMATION. FOR THIS REASON, FUTH, ON BEHALF OF ITS AFFILIATES AND ON BEHALF OF THE HONDURAN PEOPLE, HAS DECIDED TO ADDRESS YOU, MR. AMBASSADOR, TO STATE OUR CRITERIA REGARDING THE ORIGINS AND FATEFUL EFFECTS OF THIS WAR ON OUR NATION. WE ALSO PRESENT OUR SOLUTIONS BASED ON OUR GENUINELY NATIONAL INTERESTS.

FUTH IS CONVINCED THAT THE CONFLICT IN CENTRAL AMERICA WOULD NOT BE NEARLY AS SERIOUS AS IT IS WERE IT NOT FOR THE BELLICOSE POLICY IMPOSED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT UPON THE PEOPLES OF THIS REGION. THE GOVERNMENT HEADED BY RONALD REAGAN FINDS IT MORE CONVENIENT TO ATTRIBUTE THE CAUSE OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CRISIS TO THE EAST-WEST CONFLICT, IN OTHER WORDS, TO EXTERNAL CAUSES RATHER THAN ON ITS TRUE ORIGINS.

TO BLAME THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CRISIS ON THE CONTRADICTIONS OF CAPITALISM VERSUS SOCIALISM IS TO PRETEND TO DRAW A CURTAIN ON THE REAL CAUSES OF THE PROBLEM, AND THUS HIDE THE SOCIAL INEQUALITIES WHICH PREVAIL IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THE SUPEREXPLOITATION SYSTEM CARRIED ON BY THE TRANSNATIONAL COMPANIES, MAINLY U.S. IN THIS REGION, THEREBY GENERATING HUNGER, ADDING CENTURY-OLD BACKWARDNESS TO OUR EXTREME UNDERDEVELOPMENT, AND LEADING TO THE LOSS OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY AND SELF-DETERMINATION AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION.

YOUR GOVERNMENT, MR. AMBASSADOR, WISHES TO HIDE THE INHUMAN ASPECT OF ITS POLICY TOWARDS CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, INASMUCH AS IT GIVES AN IMPLUSE TO A WAR PROJECT JUSTIFIED BY THE FOLLOWING:

"WE ARE PRESENTLY WAGING A WAR IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN. IT IS UNCONVENTIONAL AND IRREGULAR BECAUSE THERE ARE NO 'BATTLE LINES,' AND THE ECONOMIC STRUCTURES, SOCIAL TRADITIONS AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS ARE UNDERMINED FROM WITHIN." (LT. COL. DAVID CALDON, SOUTHERN COMMAND SPOKESMAN 1986).

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THE WAR WHICH CALDON TALKS ABOUT HAS ALREADY BEGUN, ALTHOUGH IT IS STILL IN ITS UNCONVENTIONAL STAGE AND IS APPARENTLY BEING RUN BY SUBSTITUTE FORCES (THE CONTRAS,

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BACKED BY ARMED FORCES AND U.S. OCCUPATION TROOPS IN HONDURAS).

THE PURPOSE OF THE POLICY OF YOUR GOVERNMENT IS CLEAR: PREVENT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES FROM CHANGING THEIR PRESENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES, WHEREIN LIES BACKWARDNESS, DEPENDENCY, UNDERDEVELOPMENT AND OPPRESSION. NEVERTHELESS, MR. AMBASSADOR, ONE CAN HISTORICALLY CONFIRM THAT WHEN THE POLITICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC STRUCTURES ARE UNJUST, THEY ARE IRREDEMIABLY UNDERMINED BY THE PEOPLE WHEN THE LAWS GOVERNING THE HISTORIC PROCESS ARE LAID DOWN. OF COURSE, THESE LAWS OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY OF THE WHIMS OF A PARTICULAR PERSON OR "SUBVERSIVE" GROUP. ONE OF THESE HISTORICAL EXAMPLES IS THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE WAGED BY THE NORTH AMERICAN PEOPLE, FIRST AGAINST THE ENGLISH AND LATER AGAINST THE BARBARITY OF SLAVERY. IN OTHER WORDS, THE U.S. PEOPLE DID AWAY WITH THE STRUCTURES OF BRITISH RULE AND ASSURED EQUALITY AND LIBERTY, REGARDLESS OF THE COLOR OF SKIN OR RELIGIOUS CREED.

FUTH IS TOTALLY CONVINCED THAT THE ORIGINS OF THE GREAT REBELLIONS IN HISTORY RESPOND TO INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS AND NOT TO FOREIGN FORMULAS. IN OTHER WORDS, ITS STARTING POINT IS IN THE SPIRIT OF LIBERTY AND EQUALITY AGAINST ANY DESPOTIC AND ARBITRARY RULE, AS STATED BY JOSE CECILIO DE VALLE. THIS IS WHY, MR. BRIGGS, WE ARE AWARE THAT THIS ARMED CONFRONTATION AGAINST NICARAGUA IS NOT HOME-MADE BUT A PRODUCT OF THE INTERFERENCE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT IN AFFAIRS OF HONDURAS, BECAUSE NEITHER OUR NATIONAL NOR FOREIGN POLICY IS RESPECTED.

THE INTERFERENCE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS TURNED INTO ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF THE POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LIFE OF OUR COUNTRY, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE ADOPTION OF THE WAR PROJECT THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN OFFERS THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REGION IN ORDER TO EMERGE FROM THE CRISIS: BY MILITARY MEANS. YOUR GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WISH TO FACE THIS CONFLICT DIRECTLY BUT BY MEANS OF SUBSTITUTE FORCES: THE CONTRAS AND THE MILITARY FORCES OF HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR. THE PROJECT OF AGGRESSION HAS HAD TO ADVANCE SLOWLY IN ORDER TO GREATLY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF U.S. VICTIMS, SEEKING THE DESPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MANAGUA WITH INSTIGATIONS FROM THE CONTRAS, THE CIA AND THE PENTAGON. ALL OF THEM TRYING TO IGNITE THE FLAME IN THE BORDER ZONE.

WITH THE MORE DANGEROUS INCIDENTS IN THE BORDER ZONE, WE CAN OBSERVE THAT THE U.S. OCCUPATION TROOPS TRANSPORT THE HONDURAN ARMY TO THE CRITICAL POINTS. THE SOUTHCOM COMMANDER COMES AND INSTALLS HIMSELF AS IF HE WERE IN HIS OFFICIAL HEADQUARTERS, DIRECTING THE MOBILIZATION OPERATIONS. YOU DO THE SAME, MR. AMBASSADOR, AND OBVIOUSLY, THE INTERNATIONAL AND FAR-REACHING

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REPERCUSSIONS OF THIS INTERFERENCE CANNOT BE FAVORABLE FOR HONDURAS OR FOR ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND DIGNITY.

THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ATTEMPTS TO CONCEAL AND DENY THIS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNING AND THE GOVERNED ON THE GROUNDS OF AN ALLIANCE AND PROTECTION FROM THE UNITED STATES. ACCORDING TO SUAZO CORDOBA'S GOVERNMENT, THERE WERE NO U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN HONDURAS; THE CONTRAS WERE NOT IN HONDURAN TERRITORY, THEY WERE ACTUALLY TRYING TO "DEMOCRATIZE" NICARAGUA; THERE WERE NO MISSING PERSONS; NO TORTURES WERE APPLIED TO THOSE ILLEGALLY DETAINED; THERE WERE NO CLANDESTINE PRISONS; THERE WAS NO INTERVENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT IN POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS.

LIES AND SIMULATION WERE A NORMAL, EVERYDAY EVENT. PRESIDENT AZCONA CONTINUES WITH THE SAME BASIC POLICY WHICH IS DISCREDITING HIS GOVERNMENT AND OUR COUNTRY. BESIDES, HE REJECTS A NEGOTIATED PATH TO THE CRISIS AND DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS A PEACEMAKER. HE INSISTS THAT THE PRESENCE OF THIS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WOULD BE A TRICK. IN THIS WAY HE HAS NOT FOLLOWED INTERNATIONAL LAWS BUT HAS INSTEAD FOLLOWED THE STEPS OF REAGAN'S GOVERNMENT, WHO HAS BEEN CONDEMNED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AS THE AGGRESSOR OF NICARAGUA. FROM THIS POSITION HE CLAIMS HIS RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN THE DOMESTIC LIFE OF THAT COUNTRY AND DEMANDS A PEACE TREATY WHICH WOULD ANNUL THE SOVEREIGNTY OF NICARAGUA.

IN SPITE OF EFFORTS TO HIDE THE TRUTH OF THE FACTS, ALL

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THE NATIONS IN THE WORLD KNOW OF THE TRAGEDY OF HONDURAS, A COUNTRY OCCUPIED BY TWO FOREIGN ARMIES, THOSE OF THE U.S. AND OF THE CONTRAS.

YOUR GOVERNMENT, MR. AMBASSADOR, MAKES A MISTAKE WHEN IT SEES NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CRISIS OTHER THAN WAR AND THE IMPOSITION OF ITS IMPERIAL INTENTIONS. CONSEQUENT TO THIS APPRECIATION IT ALSO SEEKS THE OCCASION TO LIGHT THE FLAME THAT COULD LEAD TO A CONFLICT IN THE REGION.

REGARDLESS OF THE MANNER IN WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT CHOOSES TO CRUSH AND DESTROY THE SOVEREIGNTY OF NICARAGUA, THE RIGHT OF ALL THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO SELF-DETERMINATION WOULD REMAIN IN SUSPENSE.

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THE WORKERS OF HONDURAS, AND THE UNITARY FEDERATION OF HONDURAN WORKERS, IN PARTICULAR, FIRMLY DISAPPROVE THE CRIME OF THIS UNJUST WAR WHICH IS ALREADY UNDERWAY.

HAVING STATED OUR CRITERIA ON THE ORIGINS AND EFFECTS OF THIS WAR, WE CONSIDER THAT YOU SHOULD NOT CONTINUE TO INTERVENE IN OUR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS; THAT THE GOVERNMENT YOU REPRESENT GIVE UP ITS WAR POLICY, THUS RESPECTING THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION; AND LASTLY, THAT ALL FOREIGN TROOPS LEAVE OUR COUNTRY.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNITARY FEDERATION OF HONDURAN WORKERS (FUTH)

END TEXT.

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